

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 308

By Hazlewood

A RESOLUTION to congratulate the Town of Signal Mountain on the occasion of its centennial celebration.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this legislative body should join with the cities and counties that comprise this great State in celebrating joyous and historic occasions; and

WHEREAS, the exemplary Town of Signal Mountain and its citizens are most assuredly deserving of such special recognition, as they celebrate the centennial anniversary of the establishment of their community; and

WHEREAS, located in Hamilton County on Walden's Ridge at the southern end of the Cumberland Plateau, the Town of Signal Mountain takes its name from a promontory of land called Signal Point; and

WHEREAS, Signal Point, which overlooks the Tennessee River Valley and the City of Chattanooga, was used by Native Americans, including the Creeks and Cherokee, to signal important messages and by Union troops during the Civil War as a relay station and to observe traffic on the Tennessee River; and

WHEREAS, for generations, early pioneer settlers to the area moved their livestock up to Walden's Ridge each summer to graze, and later, wealthy visitors spent summers there as well, taking advantage of the cooler summer weather on the mountain; and

WHEREAS, in the late 1800s, Mr. C.E. James purchased the land around Signal Point to sell parcels for the building of summer homes, and by 1913, he had built Signal Mountain Inn, a grand hotel, as well as a trolley for transportation from the valley to the top of the mountain; and

WHEREAS, the addition of a golf course to Mr. James's resort community in 1918 sparked the effort to seek a charter from the General Assembly for a town, as the grazing of

roaming livestock, including cows and pigs, on the new golf course as well as neighborhood lawns had become troublesome to residents; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Signal Mountain was officially granted a charter by the General Assembly on April 4, 1919, and its first order of business was to outlaw animals in the town and hire a man with a horse to corral the animals and enforce the law; and

WHEREAS, by 1925, the Town of Signal Mountain included approximately 200 homes with residents residing year-round in the new community; and

WHEREAS, the Alexian brothers purchased the Signal Mountain Inn in 1936, and today, the inn is known as the Alexian Village, a nationally recognized retirement community; and

WHEREAS, Signal Point is now Signal Point National Park, the smallest park in the National Park System, and it still delights visitors with its panoramic views of the Tennessee River Valley and the City of Chattanooga; and

WHEREAS, the Signal Mountain Historic District includes buildings that date from the early twentieth century to before World War II; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Signal Mountain is also home to the Mountain Arts Community Center, which is housed in the community's original school building, Signal Mountain Grammar School, constructed in 1926 and utilized until 1999; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Signal Mountain is one of the great communities in Tennessee, and it is most appropriate that the members of this legislative body honor this fine city and its citizenry as they commemorate this significant milestone in the town's historic existence; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED ELEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor and congratulate the citizens of the Town of Signal Mountain upon the celebration of the city's centennial anniversary and extend to them our best wishes for continued success, growth, and prosperity in their outstanding community, which is a true Tennessee treasure.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.